



Community Bulletin January 2021

Civic Associations and Community Members:

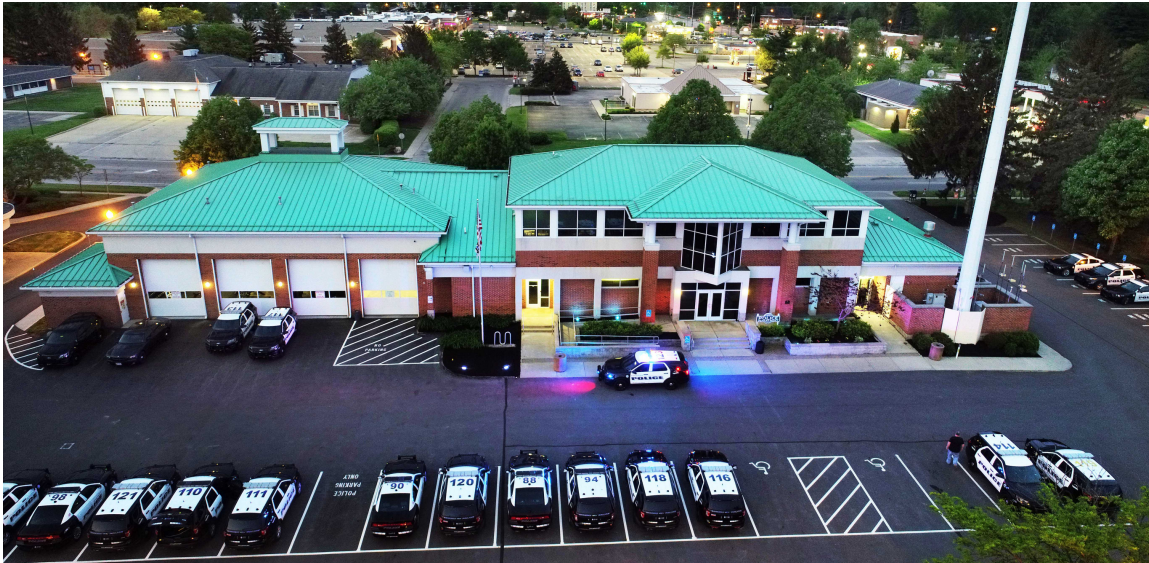
As we head into 2021, we want to thank you for your cooperation and flexibility during these challenging times. We are grateful to serve Gahanna and remain in contact with all of you through these monthly meetings. We appreciate your commitment to our Division and our community!

To join this virtual meeting, please dial 614-342-4469 (Access Code: 4000). If you have any questions about how to join the discussion, please do not hesitate to reach out.



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Summary of Division Activity for December



The following report provides an overview of performance data compiled by the Division of Police for December and year-end.

Support Services - Communications Center:

- Dispatchers handled 794 9-1-1 calls throughout December. 9-1-1 calls received by the communications center were answered in an average of 3.67 seconds. For the year, dispatchers answered 9,681 9-1-1 calls and 11 text-to-911 messages.
- 66.7% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones while 13.5% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.
- An additional 2,561 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in December. Dispatchers answered 27,743 non-emergency line calls during the year.
- 9-1-1 call volume has increased 25% from 2019.
- 2,113 calls for service were dispatched in December.
- The Division responded to 27,674 calls-for-service in 2020.



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Summary of Division Activity for December 2020 (Continued)

Field Services:

281 offense and arrest reports were generated including a summary of the following incidents by type:

- No robberies were reported.
- 21 theft from vehicle reports were reported in December. The majority of the vehicles were unlocked, but forced entry occurred in some of the incidents.
- 20 criminal damaging incidents occurred with some involving damage to motor vehicles from the removal of catalytic converters.
- Three burglaries and four breaking & entering offenses were reported. The National Church Residences facility, which is still under construction, experienced two break-ins.
- Incidents of assaults (non-domestic) are as follows:
 - No aggravated assaults.
 - Two simple assaults.
- Domestic-related responses include:
 - 18 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
 - Six incidents resulted in arrests with warrant issued in one case.
 - Four offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
- Drug offenses for the month include:
 - Drug/Narcotics violations – two reports; one arrest.
 - Drug equipment violations – one reported incident.
 - One response to an overdose occurred during the month involving an unknown opioid.



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Summary of Division Activity for December (Continued)

- 12 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Officers conducted 300 self-initiated traffic stops with 87 traffic violators issued citations only and an additional 3 arrests were made as a result of the stops.
- The Division responded to 45 motor vehicle crashes
- No traffic fatalities occurred during the month. Three fatalities occurred in 2020, which equates to .64% of crash responses during the year.
- None were classified as serious injury suspected. Four were classified as minor injury suspected – 8.8% of crash responses.
- Six were classified as injury possible – 13.3% of responses.
- The remaining 35 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 77.7% of responses.
- 13 crashes occurred on IR-270 including – 28.8% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
- No incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment.
- No commercial vehicles were involved in crashes during the month.
- The Division responded to 469 crashes in 2020. Crashes on IR-270 accounted for 114 responses or 24.3%.
- In 2020, impaired driving was a factor in 35 crashes – 7.4% of all crashes during the year involved some level of impairment.
- Distractions were reported in 22 crashes – 40% of all crashes involved some level of operator distraction.



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Summary of Division Activity for December (Continued)

Field Services (Continued):

- Patrol officers conducted five arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
- Three arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
- The laboratory analysis of bodily fluids in two arrests are pending.
- The high test for the month was .186 or over twice the legal limit of intoxication.
- Officers of the Division made 106 impaired driving arrests in 2020.



Investigative Services:

- The Division's detectives were assigned 117 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained nine investigative subpoenas and executed three search warrants during the month.



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Cop-liment of the Month!



Faith Covenant Church

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well because you become so dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8

DEAR GAHANNA POLICE,
I PERSONALLY WANTED TO
THANK THE TEAM OF OFFICERS
WHO WERE RESPONDING TO A
VERY SERIOUS THREAT (THOUGH
IT TURNED OUT TO BE A "PRANK
CALL"). MY FAMILY WAS
ADDRESSED IN A THOUGHTFUL,
CAREFUL, PROFESSIONAL AND
KIND MANNER. THANK YOU
FOR WHAT YOU DO TO KEEP
US SAFE! YOUR LEAD OFFICER
WAS EXCEPTIONAL! BLESSINGS,
3607 Dempsey Road • Westerville, OH 43081 • 614.865.0791
www.faithcov.net
Tim Henry

Gahanna PD Sergeant Ernest Choung, and Officers Mike Vasila, Joe Kemp, Bryan Kovalik and Chris Redman received a letter from Pastor Tim of Faith Covenant Church, following their response to a call in November, 2020.

The letter reads:

"Dear Gahanna Police:

I personally wanted to thank the team of officers who were responding to a very serious threat (though it turned out to be a "prank call").

My family was addressed in a thoughtful, careful, professional and kind manner. Thank you for what you do to keep us safe! Your Lead Officer was exceptional!"

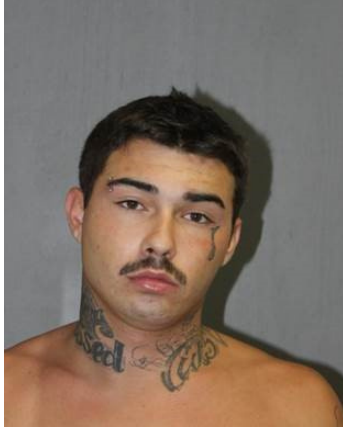
Thank you, Tim, for taking the time to share your gratitude.



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Suspect Sentenced to 6 Years



Taylor Spencer

On January 14, 2021, Taylor Spencer pleaded guilty to the October 9, 2020 shooting of Nicholas Ervin at 431 W. Johnstown Road.

He was sentenced to a minimum of six years mandatory time (three years for the Felonious Assault and three years for the firearm specification) with a potential maximum of seven and a half years.

Mail Thefts

Over the past few months, we have received several reports regarding theft of checks. These checks were put into a mailbox or blue box at various locations by residents, and then were stolen at some point.

Identifying the specific location of the theft is still under investigation. The checks were stolen and forged, then altered to make payable to someone other than the original recipient. On some occasions, the payment amount was also changed.

We are actively investigating the thefts. Please exercise caution when mailing checks and/or leaving checks in mailboxes. We suggest that you check your bank account statement on a regular basis to verify that no fraud has occurred.



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Missing Adult

Our agency is seeking the public assistance in locating missing person Chu San.


Sex: Male
Race: Asian
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 143 lbs.
Hair: Black
Eyes: Black
Clothing: Orange Robe

He was reported missing by his family on Oct. 26, 2020. He was last seen in Gahanna on Sept. 2, 2020 wearing an orange robe. He has taken a vow of silence.


If you have seen Mr. San or have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact the Gahanna Division of Police immediately 614-342-4240.



Gahanna Division of Police
460 Rocky Fork Blvd.
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
614-342-4240



Missing Person
Chu San



- Sex: Male
- Race: Asian
- Height: 6'01"
- Weight: 143
- Hair: Black
- Eyes: Black
- Other:

- Clothing: orange robe
- Vehicle: N/A
- Habits: N/A

Chu San was reported missing by his family on October 26, 2020. He was last seen in Gahanna on September 2, 2020 wearing an orange robe. He has taken a vow of silence. If you have any information regarding Mr. San's whereabouts contact the Gahanna Division of Police at 614-342-4240.



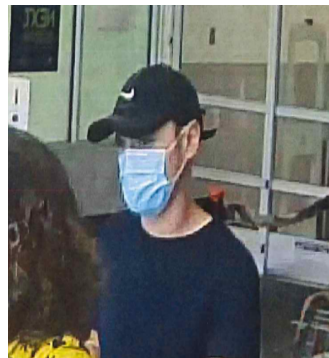
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Police Seek Help in Identifying Theft Suspects

The images below show a theft suspect and vehicle involved in two separate thefts of clothing from Kroger Marketplace located at 300 South Hamilton Road. In both cases, the suspect appears to be walking out of the store with an armful of clothing and getting into the pictured maroon Saturn Vue (no license plate), which appears to be driven by a female suspect.



The suspects in the photos below are wanted in connection with the theft of wallets from customers' purses in local area grocery stores. Following the theft, they used the victims' credit cards at various Walmart locations in Central Ohio to purchase gift cards. Any help in identifying these two suspects could be helpful to the investigation.



Should you have information regarding the identity of these suspects, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240



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Stolen Vehicles a Continuing Occurrence

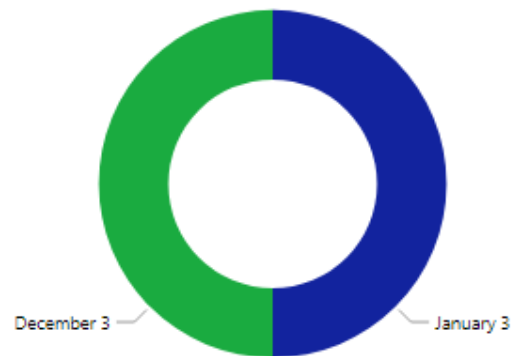
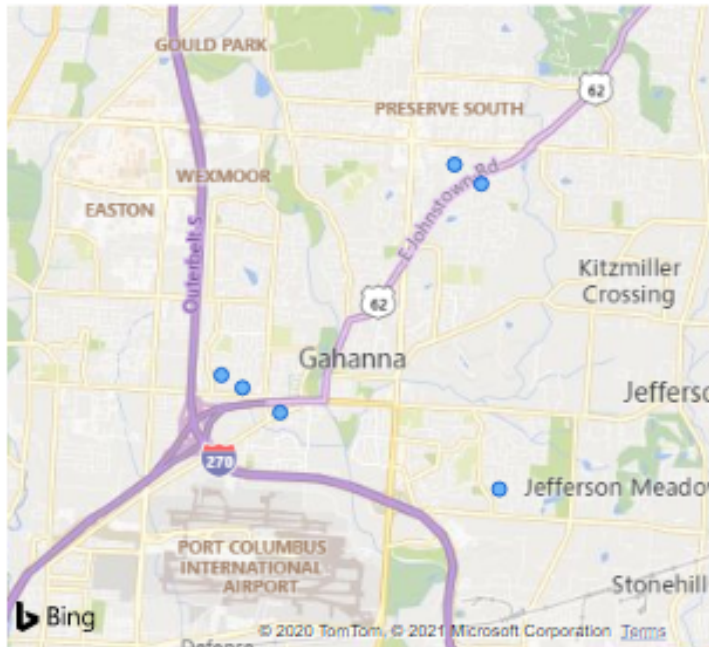
Gahanna Police continue to receive reports of vehicles being stolen. This trend has been ramping up over the past year locally, and throughout Central Ohio. Since December 1, 2020, there were six vehicles randomly stolen while left unattended. Currently, only half of those have been recovered. Removing spare keys from inside of the vehicles is imperative in stopping these thefts. As newer vehicle models move away from traditional keys to fobs, ensure that your fob is stored inside and far enough away from your vehicle that is disabled.

During the colder months, do not leave your running vehicle unattended, even if for a short time, to warm up in your driveway or during a quick run into the gas station. Following these few tips will help you to keep your vehicle safe and in your possession.

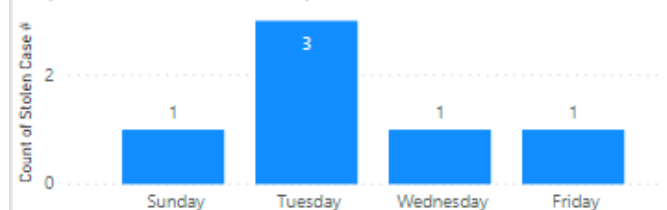
Below are graphs showing the stolen vehicles since December 1, 2020.

Count of Stolen Case # by Report Month

Location of Stolen Vehicles



Day-of-Week Vehicles Reported Stolen



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SCAM ALERT



Please be aware that no crisis is without those who will try to profit from the fear, misery, charity, or the uncertainty of others. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a marked increase in online and text-based phishing, scams and similar attempts to steal information or directly scam money from the public.

These scammers are using a broad array of sophisticated ploys directed toward a wide spectrum of responses, including those who are looking for a cure, financial relief, those who want to help, and those seeking to make a profit. The Justice Department has shut down hundreds of suspicious sites that offer COVID-19 “vaccines” or other forms of stimulus relief assistance. These sites often imply the message is from an official government source or non-profit organization. The efforts of the Justice Department have not slowed the continuous deluge of new sites popping up daily.



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SCAM ALERT (Continued)

The Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department have issued alerts about phishing texts and phone calls that are presumably from contact tracers, warning you that you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19. The scam texts include a link that, when used, will download malware to your device. Many scam or phishing attempts often appear to be from authentic businesses or government agencies. Clicking on active links or downloading attached files may import a program that uses your internet connections to spread more malware, or access your personal files looking for passwords and other information for purposes of identity theft.

Be careful when you browse for information about coronavirus. You should rely on legitimate sources, such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or local and state boards of health mindful that scammers may be impersonating them, as well.

Tips to avoid coronavirus scams:

- Online offers for coronavirus related vaccines or cures are scams and are not legitimate.
- The FDA has a website of approved COVID-19 tests and testing companies. Please be cautious of any emails, calls, texts or social media posts advertising "free" testing or government ordered COVID-19 tests.
- Avoid clicking on links or downloading files from unexpected emails or text messages, even if the address appears to be from a known person or company you recognize.
- Avoid sharing personal information such as your Social Security number, Medicare or credit card information in response to any unsolicited calls, texts or emails.
- Do your own research on opportunities to donate or assist with fundraising. Be highly suspicious of calls, emails, or texts for fundraising especially if there is pressure to act quickly or payment is requested in the form of prepaid debit cards or gift cards.
- Do not accept phone calls, texts, or emails from unknown sources offering an opportunity to invest in a new "Coronavirus stock".

Sources: FTC, FCC, FBI, SEC, AARP



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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE
"To Serve and Protect"



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."



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